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Title: Need to provide financial assistance for restoration and reconstruction work for damages caused by heavy rain in Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during 2006, between July and October, as many as 12 low pressures occurred in the Bay of Bengal. It caused heavy rainfall and as a consequence serious flood situation prevailed in 27 out of 30 districts of Orissa. The flood occurred in five phases causing devastation on a unprecedented scale. One hundred and five lives were also lost. The State of Orissa has requested the Government of India to provide Central assistance to the tune of Rs.2,382.43 crore since mid-September. It has also requested to grant one lakh houses under the IAY as special assistance. But Orissa has received a paltry sum of Rs.25 crore only from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. A sum of Rs.175 crore is provided as advance instalment from Calamity Relief Fund. This has only added salt to the injury. I should not name the Secretary who is to preside.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot name him.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : But the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking so much time to take a decision. Already two months have passed. Why is it that Inter-ministerial Group Meeting is yet to be convened? Why is this being delayed? The hon. Agriculture Minister is also present in the House. Is it true that the Inter-Ministerial Group has to recommend the case to the high-level Committee, which is headed by the Union Agriculture Minister and only then, funds can be released?

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the matter. Speculation is not necessary.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him. I would associate everybody.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is not a question of just mentioningâ€¦. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do that. You know, Shri Tripathy, it is not possible. I have allowed it to be raised because of the importance of the matter and he is raising it very appropriately.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Several other States have already received National Calamity Relief Fund but Orissa has been left out. â€¦ (*Interruptions*) Why is this step-motherly or partisan attitude towards Orissa? Restoration and reconstruction work has received a setback. Hon. Prime Minister, during his visit to Orissa, has assured that adequate funds be provided at the earliest. Then why is this delay? I would urge upon the Government and I would request you to ask the Government to intervene to take steps immediately and extend proper assistance to Orissa, which is its due, at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I certainly endorse all such reasonable demands.

Please add the names of the hon. Members who wanted to associate themselves with the issue. Take down the names of the hon. Members who are supporting. Nothing more.

*(Interruptions) â€¦**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo and Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy are allowed to associate with this issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please do not.

Shri P.C. Thomas.

I am sorry. You know very well that I cannot compel the Government to respond. You made your point.

Shri Tripathy, you never bothered to even give a notice. I am sorry. We are disposing of the notices. Still there are many hon. Members who have given their notices. You have not even given the notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already got your name properly recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Three or four days back, I have raised this matter. The Government has to respond to it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that, you were the Minister also, I cannot compel the Government. No Speaker can compel the Minister to make a statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded, except the speech of Shri Thomas.

*(Interruptions) â€¦**

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* Not recorded